

# Agriculture 1913

## Improvement of

### FIRST BALE OF COTTON

*Mmt Adv - 7-31-13*

### Shipped to Savannah From Albany Last Night.

Albany, Ga., July 28.—The first bale of cotton from the crop of 1913 was brought to Albany this afternoon by Frank Thomas, a progressive negro farmer of Dougherty county.

The bale was classed as good middling and was sold to the Brown Cramer Cotton Company for 17 cents a pound. It was shipped to-night to Hunter & Co. of Savannah. The bale weighed 410 pounds.

The cotton had not been ginned, but was hurried to one of the local public gineries which immediately made ready to gin and press it. Later the bale was carried to A. W. Muse & Co.'s warehouse where a score or more of cotton men went to see it sampled.

For years Deal L. Jackson, a negro farmer of this county, was Georgia's first-bale man, but he retired from the annual competition several years ago. White farmers have since been carrying off first bale honors, but Frank Thomas has now won them back for his race.

He farms on the Callaway place in the lower part of Dougherty near the Mitchell county line.

The first bale last year reached Savannah about this time. The bale will be sold at auction at the Cotton Exchange.

**A Plea For Negro Agricultural Schools.**  
*J. B. Bradley, District Herald, J. J. Jones*

Editor Altheimer Banner—5/17/13.  
Providence ordained the white race to be the civilizer of mankind. When Columbus set his foot on the American Continent, he found the Red Man in an uncivilized condition and the Lord of this vast domain.

With civilization, came its dark pages; war, diseases and "fire-water" played havoc, and decimated the Indians; if our government had not assumed guardianship over the remaining numerous tribes the race would have ceased to exist. Some of our ablest men are descendants of that people. Many full blooded Indians have prosperous communities of their own.

In my article published in your paper on April 24th, I stated the ex-slaves were a God-fearing, trust-worthy, frugal, industrious people and good farmers, a true reflection of their former Masters, all caused by good example and training.

With Freedom, all of this guardianship ceased, and the negro was thrown on his own resources: in many instan-

ces he made good, but, generally speaking, the young generation is helpless, not hopeless, as I was mis-quoted in the Arkansas Gazette of April 30th. Helpless is not hopeless, for there is hope, provided the white man assumes his ordained guardianship. Above all, let us be just. The young negro undertakes the raising of some cotton; he puts his bale or bales on the platform and in most cases there his interest ceases; there is nothing left for him to winter on, he has already consumed his share before and after the seed was put in the ground. Any one acquainted with the cultivation of cotton, knows that it requires about 1-3 of ones time in the year to cultivate and gather a cotton crop; the rest of the year's time is now spent in idleness; this is the beginning of all evil. There was no early training; he has no knowledge how to raise anything else to sustain life, and when the cotton is gone, he is left empty-handed.

The farm has lost all charm for him and in disgust, he leaves and instead of being a producer, he becomes a consumer; he haunts public work or invades the city; the bridle is off. Yet a child, in this advanced age, with its dark sides, he soon goes to pieces and becomes a victim to bad habits. In some instances he holds his own, but he soon realizes he has not the same chance as the white man, with whom he cannot cope and by whom he is out-run. By the hardest he carves one a mere existence, whereas, he could have been happy, contented and prosperous, if he had only received a proper early training in general farming and stock-raising, taught economy and sanitary laws.

He thinks about going back to the farm; he feels it is his proper place; he knows when the Lord sends rain and sunshine for the growing crops, he makes no distinction between the white man and the negro, but being helpless, he seldom goes back and is forever lost to the farm. Had he been trained like his fore-fathers, he would have made a most desirable tenant or laborer. Obedience and submission are his traits.

I therefore appeal to every philanthropist, humanitarian and land-owner to interest themselves in establishing Agricultural training schools for negro youths, teaching them how to farm, how to raise stock, how to make and repair tools, how to grow fruits and vegetables, give them a rudimentary education and teach them sanitation and economy: in

fact, teach them practical farming, so the young negro will cultivate the land, cleared by the brawn and muscle of his fore-fathers, under the supervision of the white man. Furthermore, he is needed to clear and put into cultivation, the thousands of acres of wild forest.

We send Missionaries to foreign lands to convert the heathen. I think charity begins at home. Save the young negro for the farm. He will be benefited thereby; so will we, and the State at large.

I am reliably informed what a great boon the Hampton Negro Agricultural and Training School, in Hampton, Va., has been for the negro and for the white people of that section. Dr. Frizzell, President of that institution, told a high State Official of Arkansas, not one of the 3400 graduates of that college was ever arrested for any offense. Lands within a radius of 100 miles of Hampton, have risen from 300 to 400 per cent in value, on account of the splendid farm-hands and tenants furnished by that training school. It is also a training school for girls, and prominent families take their turn in getting trained cooks, nurses and house-girls.

Mr. Congton, State Agent of the Young Men's Christian Association, told me that over 100 negro youths graduated from an agricultural school in Mississippi last year and not one went astray. All of them took up farming.

The people of this state, realizing the great advantage of scientific farming, have established five agricultural schools for the education of the young white man, but none for the negro youth; they have entirely lost sight of the fact that the U. S. census report shows that the majority of producers for Arkansas are negroes.

We must do our duty; the negro is here to stay and if we expect him to make a good farmer, tenant, share-cropper or wage-worker on our farms, we must give him the opportunity to acquire that training.

Before I conclude, I must tell you of J. H. Brown, a successful negro farmer, near Altheimer. Brown was trained in practical farming. Thos. H. Allen, the late cotton planter of Memphis, sold him 160 acres of land, near Altheimer, for \$700, on time. A white planter sold him a team on credit and with a little plunder in his wagon, Brown came over land from Mississippi to the place he now lives upon; this was about 25 years ago. Brown now owns 400 acres of choice land and does not owe a dollar. You ought to see his blooded stock or

colts, cattle and hogs, grazing in his pasture; his orchard, gardens, barns and feed house, where he cuts and crushes feed for his mules and horses; his blacksmith and repair shop; his new dwelling, comfortably furnished. He has brought his land up to a high standard and is producing more cotton and corn to the acre, than his neighbors. He meets his obligations promptly and is well thought of by all the white people. This certainly proves what early and practical training has done.

Let us act; do not delay; it is bound to come; the sooner the better. Let us cast our bread upon the waters; it will come back a thousand fold.

Yours respectfully,

*Louis Armstrong*

## INEFFICIENCY OF NEGRO

### FARMERS BIG HANDICAP

*Mmt Adv 7-13-13*  
**Great Loss Caused to State Every Year, Governor Is Informed**

Alabama loses each year huge sum of money because of inefficient farming methods adopted by negro farmers, according to a special report filed Monday with Governor O'Neal by a committee appointed at the meeting of the National Negro Farmers' Congress, which was held July 3 to 6 at Birmingham. The committee composed of John T. Arter of Arlington; T. M. Campbell of Tuskegee and P. C. Parks of Huntsville, called on the Governor Monday and read the report.

General campaigns of farm education and rural improvements among the negro farmers of the State are planned by the Alabama members of the association. The suggestion is ventured that some of the money derived from the sale of fertilizer tags each year and from the Farmers' Institute could be used with great good among the negro farmers, who pay a portion of the tax.

Governor O'Neal received the report and may take some action toward bringing about an improvement in the negro farming conditions. Following is the report filed with the Governor:

#### Report in Full.

"Governor Emmet O'Neal,

"Montgomery, Alabama

"Esteemed Sir:

"The negro farmers of the State of Alabama appointed by you to meet in conjunction with the National Negro Farmers' Congress, recently held in the city of Birmingham, have designated and requested us to bear their warmest greetings and goodwill to you, accompanied with their most earnest thanks for the high honor which you recently conferred and the great in-

terest which you have manifested in them. The congress has now become a part of the splendid history of the commonwealth, but its work and consequent history were largely inspired from you and your great office.

"Accompanying these greetings and expressions of thanks, it becomes us to call attention to the fact that there are 3,563,176 acres of about one-third of the improved farm land of the State of Alabama in the hands of the negro farm workers. To show how inefficiently this land is farmed we need only to study two of the staple crops to understand how woefully we are in need of farming education and the stimulation which we have received from your office.

#### Corn Crop Compared.

"Corn—According to the latest official report the white farmers cultivate 1,754,783 acres of corn, and make on an average 12 1-2 bushels per acre. The negro farmers cultivate 818,175 acres of corn and make on an average 10.4 bushels per acre. Thus you will see that the average yield for the State is lowered by .68 of a bushel per acre or in other words you are short 1,749,518 bushels of corn because of our poor method and bad management. At \$3.60 per bushel this corn would be worth to the people of Alabama \$1,046,710.

"Cotton—When it comes to our favorite crop, cotton, we are still very much below the normal in efficiency. The official report shows that it takes 2.71 of an acre for white farmers to grow a bale of cotton and 3.80 of an acre for a negro farmer to grow a bale of cotton of standard weight of 500 pounds. This means that in 1910 when this report was given there was a loss of .4 of a bale on every bale grown by the negro farmers of this State; or a loss of 200,166 bales of cotton upon the 510,365 bales grown by the negro farmers of the State. This cotton at \$50 a bale and (that was the price) was worth to the people of Alabama \$10,208,300; or in other words upon the crops of cotton and corn, there was a loss to the people of the State of \$11,250,010.

#### Poorly Trained.

"What is worse there are 181,361 negro boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 19 receiving their farm training from this very same class of inefficient and unskilled farm workers. It is the aim of the National Negro Farmers' Congress, first, to work out a plan by which we may secure the help and co-operation of our Southern white friends in reaching and helping the negro farm workers. Second, to bring the large mass of negro farm workers into that economic usefulness which will make them useful and helpful to themselves and to the State of Alabama. "We are glad to say, however, that in spite of the inefficient work pictured by the statistics here presented that the National Negro Farmers' Congress developed the fact that the negroes are farming better today than at any time in their history. The congress found that the country negro generally, has a greater purchasing power today than at any time since he was given his freedom. This was shown by the fact that the farm owners among the negroes of the Southern States increased 17 per cent in the last decade and that the farm acreage cultivated by them has increased 14 per cent in the same period of time. Thus from a purely business standpoint the State can afford to engage in the ef-



fort to reach and help the great mass of negro farm workers.

#### Planning Campaign.

"The Alabama delegation is planning a general campaign of farm education and rural improvement along with the several other Southern States represented at the congress. The thought developed itself that there were two State funds a part of which might be very wisely and justly devoted to work of this kind. We refer to the fund accruing from the fertilizer tag tax, and the Farmers' Institute Fund; the former of which amounts to more than \$100,000 annually and the latter about \$25,000, sums to which the negro farmers at present make large contributions (especially to the fertilizer tag tax) and get practically no aid.

"Your excellency has shown such great and constant interest in the welfare and progress of the negro farmers of the State that we are emboldened to ask this additional and further consideration relative to the great and important farm problems to which we have respectfully invited your gracious attention.

"We are thanking you in advance and on behalf of the delegation which you appointed to attend this Farmers' Congress for the generous consideration which you may see proper to accord these cordial greetings and final request."

## FARM FOR SALE

*The Christian*  
I have for sale a fine farm of 81 acres, in which 75 acres are under cultivation. Its yield of wheat to the acre this year was 30 bushels. Fine corn land and tobacco, the very kind of a farm for a hustling colored farmer. House has six rooms good well, large barn and granery. A ready market for everything raised. Four miles from Franklin, Ohio. Twelve miles from Middleton, Ohio. This farm is a bargain. Price, \$2,000.

OHIO SALES CO., Agent.

147 N. Main St., Middleton, Ohio.  
9-25.

## A Negro Cattle King

Sam Keeton, colored, of Bloomington this county, left Sunday morning for the Mt. Sterling market with \$8,000 of \$10,000 worth of cattle. He was forced to take the stock away on account of the scarcity of water, which we are told threatened a famine in his neighborhood until the situation was relieved by Sunday afternoon showers.

Sam Keeton is one of the most widely known "cattle kings" of Eastern Kentucky. He is a farmer but the major portion of his wealth has been realized through cattle dealing. Like other successful "punchers" he takes the saddle and rides from county to county and as regular as clock work he is at Mt. Ster-

ling on each court day with several thousand dollars worth of the bovines. Should Sam Keeton, "the Magoffin county nigger," fail to sell on the market yards the "big white gem" man would flee through superstition like an actor when a dog trots across the stage.

Sam Keeton was born, reared and not educated at Bloomington, in the northern end of Magoffin county. He "don't know a letter in the book" using his own words and neither can he "figure." In short, he is absolutely illiterate. But his wife is well educated and they are educating their offspring. Had this Negro been blessed with an education he—well, we can only conjecture on that side of it. His method of calculation is simple, unique and remarkable. This is how he does it; For a dollar he makes a long mark; for half a dollar he makes half a mark; for a quarter he makes a "little" mark; for a dime he makes a dot. As for a nickel he says he "pays no 'ten tion to 'em."

He married a daughter of Green Gardner, and the union has been blessed with several children, six of whom are living. He is still in the prime of life, being only 41 or 42 years old.

## FREEING THE FARMER.

The Constitution has for years urged diversification of farm products as a means destined most surely to emancipate this section financially and industrially. We have pointed out the folly of the system that binds the better part of the south's efforts to one crop, cotton, and causes it annually to send out of the section hundreds of millions of dollars for the foodstuffs that could and should be raised on southern soil. *Constitution 3-9-13*

With this view Harvie Jordan, well-known agricultural leader, heartily agrees. But he contends, in an article published elsewhere, that the farmers of the south, however willing, are helpless to change the present condition under the arrangement now prevailing for financing their business. He shows that most of the money upon which the crops of the south are produced is borrowed. The lender is, of course, in a position to make terms. He demands, almost invariably, that in return for the credit he extends lands are to be planted in cotton, the staple most readily convertible into money. Having no other credit resource the farmer is bound to the one-crop system and is unable to free himself.

The remedy, Mr. Jordan holds, is the inauguration of a banking system that will open a large and unrestricted reservoir of credit to the farmer by making his lands collateral for loans at nominal rates. Once

the farmer is able to command independent credit, with no crop conditions imposed upon it, he will plant what he pleases, diversification will automatically materialize and the farmer will advance in every material direction. Mr. Jordan would accomplish this beneficent revolution by inaugurating in America the land-bank or rural credit system that is now almost universal in the old world, especially in Germany. Under this plan the farmer's land, which is, in reality, the basic source of wealth, becomes collateral for loans. With the latter extended on securities that are stable and permanent he can borrow all he needs for all legitimate purposes. He is thus enabled at once to declare independence of the banker who insists upon the one-crop system. He does business and proceeds about improvements upon a basis of equality with any other business man who can now go into the money market and borrow upon virtually any collateral at the lowest rates of interest, without restriction or stipulation.

This system has long operated with success in Europe. The government is sending abroad a prominent commission, of which Mr. Jordan is a member, for the purpose of studying the European rural credit system and other rural features, with a view to their adoption in a modified form in this country. Mr. Jordan's analysis of what such a system can here accomplish and of the inequality of the present system, is so clear that it will repay perusal by farmers generally. He sheds new light on a subject of universal interest.

## TO PROBE GEORGIA - 3-13

The story published several weeks ago to the effect that Georgia spent, annually, \$37,000,000 more for foodstuffs than she received for the crops gathered has gone the rounds of the entire nation. It has now become the subject of a resolution introduced in the legislature by Representative R. O. Cochran, of Fulton county, providing for a state commission which shall inquire into the agricultural and industrial conditions of Georgia.

Mr. Cochran cites the fact that this big deficit has been charged against the producing power of Georgia. He declares it is time to ascertain its truth or falsity, and, if true, to provide a remedy.

He is correct. Not in recent years does The Constitution recall one statement so productive of controversy. If Georgia is thus far overlooking her agricultural possibilities, we should know the conditions. If she is not, the state should be relieved from the indictment.

Mr. Cochran would create for Georgia a commission equivalent to the country life commission which accomplished so much in the way of recommendation and rem-

edy for America. His plan is worthy the attention of those legislators who recognize how inseparably agriculture is intertwined with the destiny of the state.

One of the best negro farmers in Alabama is Ed Mims, a renter on the plantation of Mr. E. W. Robinson, one of Lowndes County's well known

planters. The negro raised this year forty-one bales of cotton with two mules, and enough corn to do him the coming year. He raised other products, too, that will help feed him and his family. He raised, gathered and ginned the crop himself, with the aid of his family. *Mont. Adv.*

Yesterday Mr. Robinson and his negro renter were in a local dry goods house. "Give this negro the best \$5 hat in the house," said Mr. Robinson to the merchant. So much as a compliment to the negro's energetic farming.

Mims has been with Mr. Robinson for practically thirty-five years.



# Improvement of Ex-Slave in Alabama Attracts Washington Attention by Farming

Bulletin "Example of Intensive Farming in Cotton Belt" is issued by Federal Department Complimenting Alabama Farmer's Methods.

By ALFRED J. STOFER.

Special to The Advertiser.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—"An Example of Intensive Farming in the Cotton Belt," is the title of an exceptionally interesting bulletin that has been issued by the Department of Agriculture. Although it particularly shows what can be accomplished on cotton lands there is much information regarding what is possible on lands given up to other crops. An unusual thing about this bulletin is that the man who has made a remarkable record is a negro and an ex-slave. The facts found below are taken from the introduction of the bulletin.

Farmers generally recognize the value of organic matter in the soil. It is rare, though, to find a man who utilizes this means of increasing crop yields to as great an extent as he profitably might. In the South many means of adding organic matter to the soil are neglected. Weeds, corn stalks, cotton stalks, straw, stubble and other trash are generally burned growing on the same land oats and before the land is plowed. This is a fundamental error. They should be plowed under or worked into the soil, and in addition to this certain crops should be planted for the express purpose of green manuring. By this means alone yields on poor land may frequently be trebled or quadrupled.

## Results of System.

The present bulletin gives the results of a study of the system followed on a one-horse farm by an Alabama farmer, who practiced intensive farming with field crops and increased the producing capacity of his soil more than tenfold, principally by making it rich in organic matter, without the extensive use of either manure or commercial fertilizers.

Sam McCall, the owner of this small Alabama farm, has accomplished so much that the department officials decided that what he has done was worthy of a special report, and on his system of farming this comment is made:

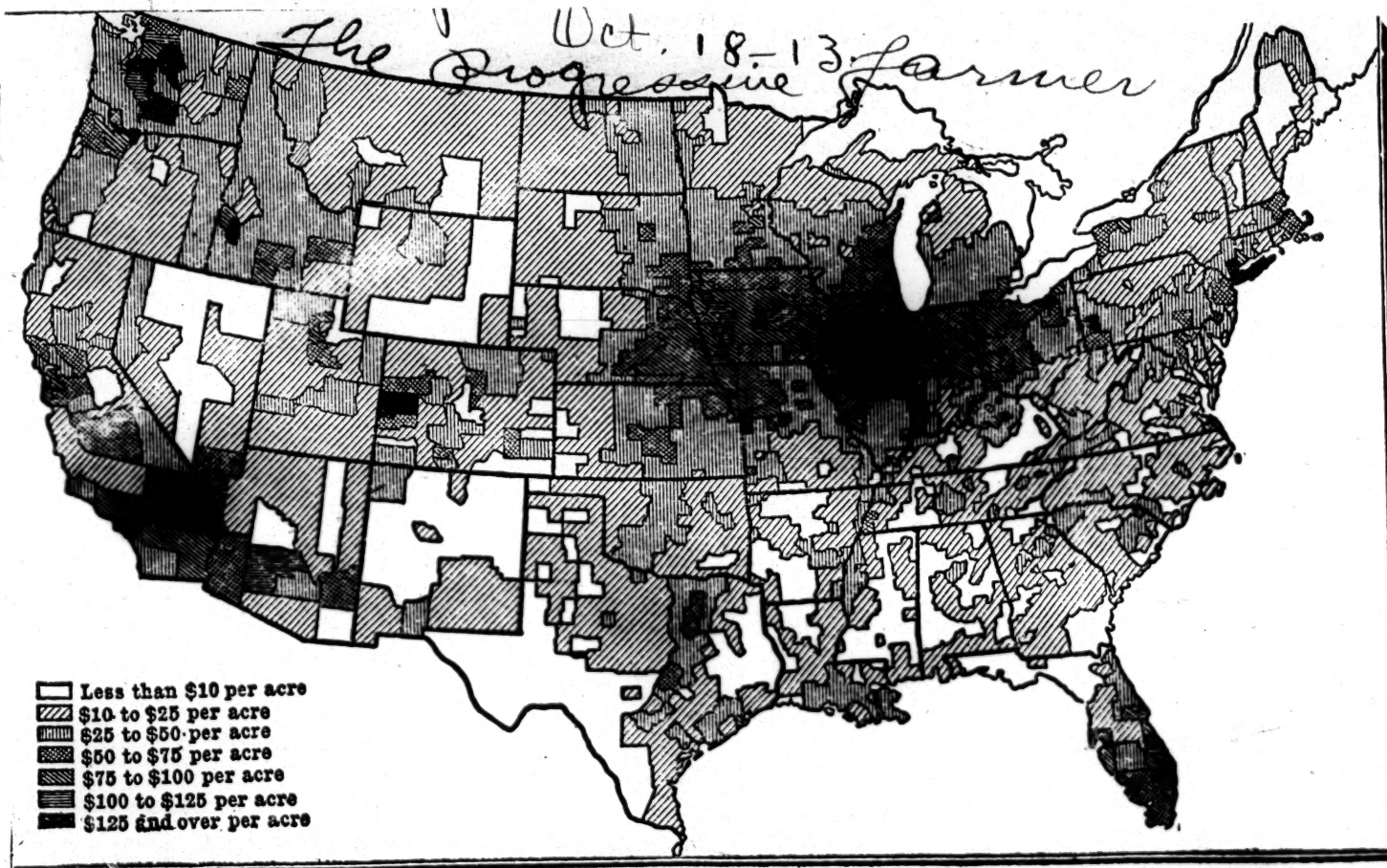
"When a man who is located in a section where much of the land has been abandoned by the so-called better class of farmers is able to make a comfortable living from only two acres of the ordinary field crops of the South, and a small garden with the use of but little manure and practically no commercial fertilizer, the methods by which this is done ought to be of value to every farmer interested in increasing the crop-producing capacity of his land. This has been accomplished by McCall, the owner of this small farm, an ex-slave and now over 75 years of age. While the methods practiced on this farm are not such that they could be adopted

on the larger farms of the South, the principle involved is fundamental and applicable to agriculture in practically all humid regions, both North and South."

## Remained as Tenant.

After McCall gained his freedom he decided to remain on the farm of his former owner as a tenant. By his thrift he acquired forty acres of land and later increased his holdings to 163 acres. Working such large tracts did not pay him, so McCall, many years ago, decided to concentrate his efforts on two acres of the best soil he possessed. At that time these two acres would produce on an average from one-third to two-fifths of a bale of cotton to the acre under favorable conditions. By 1898 the two acres which McCall had enriched under his system became so fertile that he produced seven bales of cotton on the two acres, and in later years he has been striving to bring the yield up to nine bales. Within the past few years he has been rotating his crops, and growing on the same land oats and corn.

The bulletin is illustrated with pictures, and one has the figure of the aged negro standing in one of his luxuriant fields. The department officials declare that this aged Alabama negro has set a great example for other small farmers, and they have given him quite a send-off in a handsomely printed pamphlet that doubtless will have a wide circulation.



## THE SOUTH IS THE PLACE WHERE TENANTS CAN BUY LAND CHEAPEST.

Highly interesting is the map given herewith, issued by the United States Government and based on the official 1910 census figures, showing land values by counties throughout the United States—indicating precisely where land is high and where it is cheap.

And the most significant fact brought out by this map is that it is in the South that the white tenant farmer can now buy a farm cheapest. It is true that on this map Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, and Wyoming show much white space, indicating lands worth less than \$10 per acre, but every traveler knows that this land is practically desert and barren, these four States combined producing in the last census year less than one-fourth as much as any one average Southern State. In other words, the cheap looking land in this Rocky Mountain section is not farming land at all, and can never be made such.

Put your hand over this Rocky

Mountain section of the map, therefore, and it will be clear that the cheapest agricultural land in America today is in the South. Land in the Cotton States, with twice the growing season and twice the potential productiveness of many Northwestern sections, is selling for only half as much as such Northwestern lands.

The Southern white man who would become a land-owner should make haste to seize his opportunity here and now. Lands are much higher West than in the South, and conditions are unfamiliar to you. Buy some dirt now, where you know how to farm and build a home that you can hand down to your children and your children's children. Even if it is only a small place, buy it on as long-term payments as possible, and buckle down to the job of paying for it. It will develop your character, manhood, industry, thrift, and that pride in home-owning which is itself a worthy asset.

But when you buy, make up your mind to work, not only on your own place, but do every job you can for your neighbors, helping them in their farm work and saving every penny you can to finish paying for your own homestead. In Germany and Denmark, the big landholders report that since plans were made for helping tenants buy land, labor conditions are better than before—because these small farmers are so anxious to pay for their land, to build comfortable homes, and to keep their families in comfort that they are willing to work anywhere, and labor is plentiful. It should be so in the South.

A distinguished Georgia investigator told us last week that the tenant Negroes in the South are buying land, are rising from tenancy to ownership, two and one-half times as fast as the tenant whites, and in Georgia seven times as fast. It is time for our white tenants to seize their chance before it is too late.



# Agriculture — 1913

## Improvement of

### WHITE SETTLERS IN MONTGOMERY

*not done* 7-24-13

As the cost of living increases the American people are turning more and more to the rich soils of the South for the production of foodstuffs and the inevitable result is to be a greater variety of crops in Alabama and other Southern States.

We are told that inquiries are being received almost daily from farmers of the West for information as to the adaptability of the soils and climate of Montgomery county and middle Alabama for growing fruits, melons, berries and vegetables as well as conditions here for raising live stock and grain crops. An inquiry of this character has come to The Advertiser from Mr. J. C. Cloyes of Union City, Tenn., who writes as an intelligent farmer. He asks for the population of Montgomery city and county, if there is a home market for hogs, poultry, eggs, milk, butter, fruits and vegetables and the price of improved farm lands in this county.

The census report for 1910 shows the population of the city of Montgomery to have been 29,136 and the county 82,176. Superficial records kept since 1910 reveal a steady growth in population. This is especially true in the environs of the city, this urban population being estimated now at 52,000. It is also true that since the census of 1910 a number of white families have established themselves on the rich farms of the county.

Montgomery county has an area of 499,328 acres or 786 square miles. The government soil surveyors recognize sixteen distinct types of soils in the county, including 137,024 acres of Houston clay or black lands, which are so highly recommended for grains and leguminous crops. The prices of farm lands in the county range from \$15 to \$100 per acre. These prices are governed by distance from the city, character of soils, improvements and neighborhood conditions. In considering these values it should be kept in mind that Montgomery county leads every county of Alabama in volume and value of its agricultural products; that Montgomery county has built and maintains 450 miles of graveled highways outside the limits of the city of Montgomery; that

social conditions in this county—churches, schools, telephones, auto-mobiling and housing—are exceptionally good and that no section of the county is more than two miles distant from a railroad line. These things mean that prices for lands in Montgomery county are cheap.

The city of Montgomery makes heavy demands upon its rural population for food supply. It is a regrettable fact that Alabama farmers do not seem to be able to furnish the cities of the State with table necessities. Montgomery dealers are compelled to buy butter and eggs in other States. We do not hesitate to advise our Tennessee correspondent that Montgomery offers a good market for these products of the farm and field. Our dealers tell us that they are always ready to buy meats, fruits and vegetables here, but the supply is limited. We regret that Montgomery has no organized market for handling products of the farm, but this will come in time. When our farmers learn that a growing season of twelve months makes it possible for them to supply foodstuffs for the cities at a greater profit than they secure from cotton, middle Alabama will ship its products all over this country and the farmer will take his natural position among our best business men.

Alabama's knottiest problem in agriculture has been to provide smaller acreage for industrious white farmers. The large land holders have not been economic friends of the State. The tenant system, so long in vogue, has retarded our development. This problem is being solved. In middle and western Alabama numerous large plantations have been taken over by enterprising men and the lands are being offered in small acreage and at reasonable prices. We are glad to add that much of this development is being brought about by Alabama men who are worthy of the confidence placed in them by land purchasers of distant States.

Here in Montgomery county we are able to offer attractive propositions in small tracts of lands to white farmers. The most thoughtful and far-reaching work undertaken this year by the Business Men's League has been the development of small acreage for prospective buyers. A com-

mittee representing the business organization secured an option on a large tract near the city which has been broken into forty acres, eighty acres and 160 acres. These tracts are being sold to white farmers only, at low prices and easy terms. Forty acres have been set aside by the committee as a demonstration farm. On this tract the committee has twenty growing crops, serving as objective proof to the doubting farmer.

To our Tennessee correspondent we would say: Come to Alabama; come to Montgomery county. Here he will find an annual average temperature of 64, precipitation of 54, fertile lands, markets for his products, the opportunity to work outdoors throughout the year and to produce three to five tons of hay, 100 bushels of corn, seventy-five bushels of oats, 300 bushels of potatoes and other crops in as generous proportions on any of our acres. More, too, he will participate in the prosperity that is surely coming to Alabama and he will mix and mingle with the best people in the world.

## LAND CONGRESS PROMISES GREAT THINGS FOR STATE

Preparations Being Made for Large Gathering in Birmingham in November

Special to The Advertiser. BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Oct. 13.—The preparations for the Alabama Land Congress, which is to be held in Birmingham on November 1-6, continue to indicate the importance of the gathering, and its bearing on the development of the agricultural resources of the State.

Invitations have been sent to every newspaper, every banker, every commercial organization and to a list of delegates appointed by the Probate judges of every county to the number of about fifty from each county in the State.

In addition to this every railroad operating in Alabama will be represented, in many cases both by the presidents of those roads and the heads of their immigration departments, all coming to meet with the land owners, and business men of the State to consider how they may co-operate in bringing more farmers to settle the idle lands of Alabama, of which there are some twenty million acres avail-

able for farming purposes and of which only a fraction is in cultivation.

**Corporations Interested.** Interest is being manifested in this meeting also by the large corporations of this district, the heads of which are all alive to the importance of securing more farmers for the State. These iron masters want a larger consuming clientele among whom they may distribute more finished products as well as having a larger producing force to supply their employees with food products from nearby fields, thus lowering the cost of living.

This meeting will be the first time in the history of Alabama that so many forces and agencies of development have come together to consult over ways and means of developing the idle lands of the State, and it is receiving from the State itself, as well as the Agricultural Schools and heads of Farm Demonstration work, with Superintendents of Rural Schools and Corn Club instructors, the kind of co-operation that points to results.

All conditions that may be deemed as a detriment or barrier to the coming of the better classes of farmers will be thoroughly investigated with the view of remedying such as are found really detrimental, and it is believed that the Alabama Land Congress will inaugurate a new era in the progress and prosperity of Alabama.

**Underwood to Speak.** The fact also that Hon. Oscar Underwood will deliver an address before the Congress on the subject of "The High Cost of Living and the Remedy," is attracting attention from a number of cities outside of Alabama, especially Chattanooga, Meridian, Memphis, Atlanta and Nashville, from which reduced railroad rates have been made so that those who may desire to hear this distinguished Alabamian on this subject which is just now of world-wide interest, may do so and it is believed that delegations from each of these cities will come to hear him.

The address of W. W. Finley, president of the Southern Railway Company and the paper by Milton H. Smith, president of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, will be of the deepest interest, as the latter will give a resume of what that road has done in the development of the State of Alabama over a period of forty years.

Other speakers of equal prominence will discuss practical subjects relating to the soils, crops and conditions, while some of the yields that have been made will be shown among which will be the startling fact that aside from cotton the farmers of Alabama are showing remarkable progress and diversification is going on from one end of the State to the other with far more satisfactory returns than under the old methods of only one crop-cotton.

### OUR FARMERS IN THE NORTH.

The Negro farmers of Pennsylvania held a conference at the Downingtown Industrial School in August of last year and perfected an organization that promises to be of much value. It is estimated that there are 600 Negro farmers in the State, when there should be 6,000 or more. Dr. W. A. Credit, the brilliant Philadelphia preacher, who raises things at his Downingtown school is president. Mr. Thomas B. Patterson

the farm manager at the Downingtown school, and who has charge of the agricultural exhibit of the Pennsylvania Emancipation Celebration, writing in the *Christian Recorder*, among other things says: *W. B. Age*

Farming pays when rightly done. Great efforts will be put forth to bring together the best products of the fields and the dairy. Live stock of various kinds will be shown also. Agricultural experts will give talks on ways and means by which farm hands can be acquired on easy terms and how to get the best out of them when acquired.

"To show the need of agricultural publicity among our people the following instance is cited:

"A farmer residing in the South sells his farm for upwards of \$3,000 because of the bad conditions existing there. He moves north and buys with the proceeds of his sale a nice home in the city, but being a farmer he can find little to do. Now in order to keep up a two or three thousand dollar home in a large northern city one must have a fairly good job and stick to it all the time. If this same man could have been induced to buy a nearby farm and had put the same amount of energy in it that he seemed to have had in the South, he could have made a fine living and a little something besides, under circumstances somewhat more congenial."

Mr. Patterson is a competent witness, He was born in South Carolina and graduated from Hampton Institute in the far-off days of General Samuel Chapman Armstrong. For sixteen years, until last year, he conducted a model farm of his own at Deer Creek, in the Schuylkill Valley, Pennsylvania, and marketed his produce at Ashland, twelve miles away. Why did he give it up? Because he is no longer young, and, being of a very practical and scientific turn of mind, Dr. Credit sought him out and persuaded him to take charge of the Downingtown school farm interests. When he says, therefore, that our Southern farmers who come North to improve their living conditions would do better by buying a small farm in the North than by settling and stagnating in the cities, he speaks as one having the authority of experience.

We also know, personally, Mr. Patterson to be correct in his conclusion from having visited the North Carolina colony of farmers at Whitesboro, in Cape May County, New Jersey, where the farm development is exceptionally fine and where the people have their own railroad station, post office, church, school and hotel. There is plenty of good farm land to be had there, with the Cape May, Atlantic City and Philadelphia markets in easy reach for all the products that can be raised, with minimum freight charges. So, also, there is a thriving native Negro farm settlement at Gouldtown, in Salem County, where the people boss their own business and tolerate but do not encourage the white stranger to pitch



his tent and abide.

We also have many Negro farmers in New York State—on Long and Staten Islands and the Genesee and Mohawk valleys—and should have more. Somebody should call them together and help them to organize a Farmers' Society, as they have done in Pennsylvania and should do in New Jersey. It is a good and needful work to be done. Organizations, matching experiences and com-

paring results, are the watchwords that spell success for white and near white people in farm and all other work, and it must become so with blacks and near blacks if they would keep abreast of the long-plodding procession of those who do the world's work. Our Northern and Western farmers should be encouraged

to count noses and compare results. They should become in the future a very large and influential factor in the welfare of the race.

For instance, Mr. Patterson used to cart his truck to Ashland, a distance of twelve miles, three times a week, rising at four in the morning and selling out

by noon. He did not have a Negro customer on his route, and there was only one other Negro in his valley. We rode over the long mountain route last summer with him many times. His customers were not bothered about his color. He had high-grade truck and they snapped it up as fast as he reached them.

A Negro, too, who earns \$25 and keeps per month on a New York farm is better off in every way than the city service man who earns \$40 a month, when he can, and keeps himself.

#### NEED TO GROW MORE CORN IN THE SOUTH.

We agree with the Louisville Courier Journal that the Southern States need to increase their corn crops. Not a Southern State raises enough such grain for its own consumption. It is observed that "farmers in most of the Southern States are bending their energies to increase the cotton production. The farmers in Kentucky are trying to break the tobacco record every year. In the meantime, they are paying around \$1 a bushel for corn wherewith to feed their stock and to make corn pones for family consumption."

Some figures have been compiled by Orange Judd Southern Farming, which show the gap between corn produc-

tion, and consumption. Here are the figures for the twelve States, in millions of bushels:

	Consumption.	Production.	Importation.
Virginia .....	77	38	29
North Carolina ....	87	51	36
South Carolina ....	57	34	23
Georgia .....	131	54	77
Florida .....	59	9	50
Mississippi .....	97	57	40
Alabama .....	93	54	39
Kentucky .....	209	109	100
Tennessee .....	95	88	7
Louisiana .....	84	32	52
Arkansas .....	100	50	50
Texas .....	163	153	10

Totals ..... 1,252 739 523  
\*Inclusive of about 100,000,000 bushels of corn consumed by the whiskey or distilling industry.

The production is that given by the government reports in 1912. The estimate of consumption is for the period from October 1, 1912 to September 30, 1913. The production of 732,000,000 bushels last year, was nearly double the production of 1900. Orange Judd Southern Farming estimates that the South's cotton crop barely offsets its imports of foods and this leads to the conclusion:

The natural corn belt of the world is right here in our Southern States rather than in the Central West. Our Southern land, ranging in value from an average of \$15 to \$50 an acre, given the same culture and attention devoted to the corn crop in the West, where land is worth \$75 to \$200, will produce as many bushels and as much corn fodder here as there. Of course, we all know that the world's record for the biggest yields per acre of corn is held by South Carolina. But cutting out all extraordinary yields obtained regardless of cost, and getting right down to the hard pan basis of ordinary farming, it is very evident that corn is one of the most profitable crops the South can make.

After we have produced here enough to supply our home demand, we will have every inducement to produce more corn for export, to other States or foreign countries. The shortage in the number of live stock compared to the world's increase of human beings, shows that for some years to come all animals and animal products will command good prices. This insures that any surplus corn we may make can be marketed on the hoof to excellent advantage.

Orange Judd Southern Farming believes the South could produce all the seeds, fodders and foods that it now imports without necessarily curtailing the total yield of cotton. Even if it were necessary to curtail the cotton yield, it would pay the farmer to

raise the stuff which he now imports. Cotton would bring a better price, and whatever he sold would be practically at a clear profit. It is easy enough to make a farm sustain itself with other products than cotton—too many farmers are already doing that very thing.

These remarks should be pondered this morning by Alabama farmers who will face the ravages of a pest this fall. Alabama farmers occupy an enviable position, in that any product known to the South can be grown in abundance in this State. It is now clear to the farmer of this State that improved methods of farming must be followed in 1913. The prosperity and happiness of the farmer depend upon his progressiveness.

### Help For Negro Farmers

The Country Gentleman, of Philadelphia, a magazine published by the Curtis Publishing Company, in the interest of up-to-date farming methods, pays the following tribute to the efficiency of Tuskegee Institute's Agricultural Department in assisting the Negro farmers of the South and elsewhere to become successful. It says:

"If anyone doubts that the colored man can become a successful farmer and a good rural citizen he should spend a few days in Alabama at Tuskegee Institute. If he can't make a visit there and wants convincing proof that this is a helpful institution let him examine some of its bulletins on farm topics. If a Negro farmer with even a germ of ambition will take the trouble to read some of its literature he will get new inspiration to improve his methods.

"George W. Carver, the Director of The Tuskegee Institute Experiment Station, has written a number of very practical and helpful bulletins on a variety of topics, including the corn and cotton of the small tenant farmer, poultry raising, gardening and canning for the women folks. He will gladly send copies of these bulletins to any applicant in the South so long as the supply lasts.

"The Negro farmer who chooses to improve his surroundings will find sympathy, encouragement and substantial aid at Tuskegee."

PRODUCE 50,000 BUSHELS OF POTATOES.  
Thousands of young colored men

ought to read the article published in a late number of the Country Gentleman describing how J. G. Groves and sons have grown between fifty and sixty thousand bushels of potatoes on their farm in Kansas. The Country Gentleman published a picture of his home containing twenty-two rooms with all of the up-to-date improvements. Mr. Grove's farm, with about 400 acres, is pointed out as a model potato farm for the people in the whole country. It is expected that Mr. Groves will attend the National Negro Business League in Philadelphia in August so that the East can hear from his own lips the story of his marvelous success as to how he became the potato king of Kansas.

### Mr. John Crawford Refuses to Sell His 1,100 Fertile Acres

Forty thousand dollars, it is stated, was the round price offered Mr. John Crawford, a worthy and industrious colored farmer, for his fine farm of 1100 acres near Americus, last week, and the offer was at once declined by Crawford. The place is a desirable one and has long been Crawford's home, where he works a large force of laborers and makes good crops. Crawford owns his land and does not owe a dollar upon it, or to anyone else for that matter. He is well off, financially, and with money in the bank he did not see any necessity in selling the old farm to which he is greatly attached. Not many Georgia Negroes have attained the great success John Crawford has attained during his long residence here, or are held in such regard.

### OFFICERS OF THE WOMEN'S FARMERS' CONFERENCE.

Mr. A. C. Brown, Americus, Ala., president.

Mrs. Billie Ann Brown, Route 1, Snowdown, Ala., treasurer.

Mrs. Janie Evans, Route 1, Snowdown, Ala., recording secretary for Brothers and Sisters Department.

Rev. B. J. Brown, Route 1, Ramer, Ala., corresponding secretary for Brothers and Sisters Department.

A truckers' association, composed of colored farmers, was organized at Natchez, Miss. About 100 acres was pledged. There were fifty delegates at the meeting who evinced much interest and enthusiasm. The assembly was presided over by Prof. G. W. Brumfield, Prof. S. H. C. Owens, Dr. A. W. Dumas, J. A. Ross and James Boyd. Prof. G. W. Brumfield was elected president. J. R. Ross.

secretary, and John S. Toles, vice president.

### NEGRO FARMERS' CONGRESS TO MEET IN BIRMINGHAM

Gov. of Many States Asked to Name Representatives.

In order that conditions of the negro farmers of the United States might be improved, and that an interest in better farm life might be awakened in them, a Negro Farmers' Congress, composed of representative negroes of the country will meet in Birmingham July 4, 5, 6. Governors from the various States have been asked to appoint delegates to the meeting, and many of them have already responded and expressed their approval of the movement.

Among those who are on the committee to attend are: E. L. Blackshear, principal Prairie View College, Prairie View, Texas, chairman; B. F. Al-

len, President Lincoln Institute, Jefferson City, Mo.; Dr. R. E. Jones, editor Southwestern Christian Advocate, New Orleans, La.; Robt. S. Wilkin, President A. and M. College, Orangeburg, S. C.; W. S. Buchanan, President A. and M. College, Normal, Ala.; James Hathaway, Principal State Normal, Frankfort, Ky.; H. T. Kealing, President Western University, Kansas City, Kan.; H. R. Wright, President State College, Savannah, Ga.; Jas. B. Dudley, President A. and M. College, Greensboro, N. C.

### A WORTHY NEGRO FARMER.

Butler Advocate. Mr. Adw. 30 10  
The colored man, Sam McCall, whom The Florence Times referred to recently as having made seven bales of cotton on two acres of land, which received much attention and comment through the press of the State, The Times says, "Is seventy-five years of age, and late in life discovered that cultivating too much land in the old way was leading him to poverty; he took up intensive, scientific, cultivation—plowed deep, fertilized heavily with home-made and commercial fertilizer—and wrought great things. He also made a strong point in selecting the best seed from his best plants." The discovery made by this old colored man must be made and accepted by our farmers generally, before there will be any change for the better in the financial condition of the farmers of this country.

### Negro Farmer Wouldn't Sell.

Americus, Ga., Nov. 7.—Forty thousand dollars was offered and refused to-day for the purchase of the John Crawford plantation near Americus. Crawford is a prosperous negro farmer, owning a fine plantation. He does not owe a dollar and is growing more prosperous yearly. Few negroes in Georgia are better fixed financially.



# Improvement of HOW TO FREE THE FARMER FROM THE SINGLE CROP FETTER

Editor Constitution: I read with interest the article of Mr. H. G. Hastings in last Sunday's Constitution and your editorial comments thereon.

The enormous figures given by Mr. Hastings for the purchase of food supplies outside of Georgia in 1912 is a very severe indictment against the present methods of agriculture employed by the farmers in this state.

Yet it simply portrays conditions which have existed in the old cotton states east of the Mississippi river for the past quarter of a century, and will continue throughout the future years to come so long as our present methods of farm credits continue.

So long as cotton continues to be the only basis of collateral security for southern farmers, just so long will they, and the balance of the consuming population in this state, draw their food supplies from western corn cribs and smokehouses.

The doctrine of diversified agriculture as written and preached for the past three decades by agricultural writers and orators, is sound in theory and read well in print, but when we seriously investigate the practical side of every-day farm life in Georgia, these beautiful theories fall to the ground and live in our memories as wholesome advice which cannot be applied.

If the people of the south really want that type of diversified agriculture which will relieve us from so tremendous a drain on her resources which annually goes to the west for food supplies, there is but one source of relief, and that lies in establishing a system of rural credits, or farm finance, which will emancipate farmers from the extensive production of cotton as their basis of credit and consequent enslavement to existing credit conditions.

The farmers, as a rule, have no standing in modern commerce or finance. They are not recognized in the business world as an active, aggressive part of the business factors which guide and control the destinies of this country.

## The Farmers' Place.

His mission seems to be that of a laborer only in the field of production, while the balance of the world absorbs the products of his labor and limited capital pretty much as it pleases.

There is hardly a single item of supplies purchased by southern farmers which enters into the production of the cotton crop that does not cost them on an average of 100 per cent more than the original value of the article. No industry can stand this enormous rate of interest and prosper.

Banks and supply merchants alike rate the credit of the farmer on the acreage planted in cotton, and the value of the mules which pull the plows that cultivate the crop.

To ask farmers to diversify their crops and raise corn, wheat, oats, livestock, etc.

under these antiquated iron-bound regulations of bankers and merchants, is asking that which is impossible of accomplishment.

The yoke of the all-cotton credit system must be lifted from the shoulders of the farmers first, then the dawn of an era of diversified agriculture will break over the hills and valleys of our state with astonishing rapidity.

## System of Farm Credits.

What is our present system of farm credits? Here it is:

The eastern banks lend millions of dollars to southern banks during the spring and summer to aid in financing supply merchants and such farmers who are able to secure cash advances.

But these loans are made payable in October and the eastern banks call this money promptly from their southern borrowers, hence the local banks call the supply merchants, and these in turn call the farmers, and the cotton crop, the only security for farm credit, is forced from the fields to the market as rapidly as it can be harvested, ginned and baled.

Why do the New York bankers call this money in October? It is because their eastern customers and depositors require it in their fall and winter business. To meet the demands of commerce in the winter, properly move the crops and enable the farmers to market their products slowly, will require just one billion dollars of ready cash more than the banks of the nation have in circulation.

How is this condition to be met and obviated? By the passage of state and federal laws which will enable the farmers to utilize their land as a liquid asset. The farmer must have ready cash in place of the long-time credit accounts with the supply merchant.

He must have access to the commercial open accounts with the bank, just as the mercantile, industrial or trust corporation has. He has in his lands a better and safer security than any other line of business in this country.

Every farmer's organization of which we have any record since the days of the Grange, down to the present time, has failed in its efforts to successfully run co-operative business because of the absence of ample cash capital. It is the same with the individual as with the organization.

## The European Farmer.

The European farmers have the cash, the organized and perfected system of rural banks, either of the Raiffeisen or Landschaften type, hence agriculture along diversified lines is profitable, co-operative marketing societies are successful, while the withering blight of the trust corporation and other organized agencies which in this country hold down the price of farm products on the one hand and hold up the consumer with high prices on the other, is unknown in Europe.

If the European farmer has solved the problem successfully, the Georgia farmer should be able to easily build up the structure he should have, so as to adapt himself to the needs of twentieth century progressive methods in operation in all other fields of activity in this state.

The farmers of the nation must be placed in a position where they can liquify their assets, which in the main are improved farming lands (at the present time outlawed under the federal banking acts), and organize a rural banking system which will enable them to cultivate their lands upon a spot-cash basis, and market their crops independent of any fixed pay day dominated and controlled by the bankers of Wall street.

The supply merchant has been created and maintained by necessity. Our rural banks do the best they can with their limited resources.

## Resources of Georgia Farmers.

The total banking capital in Georgia, a typical cotton state, including surplus, is \$61,000,000. This amount of capital is entirely too small to meet the demands of the commercial, manufacturing and agricultural needs of the state without resorting to the aid of outside credits upon a very large basis. Hence we cannot hope for relief under existing conditions.

But let us look for a moment at the assets of Georgia farmers, and see what they have upon which to found a rural credit system of their own.

The total value of farm properties in Georgia, including buildings, machinery, livestock and lands, is in round numbers, \$600,000,000. Of this the value of improved farming lands is estimated at \$375,000,000. Twenty per cent of the present market value of our improved farming lands utilized as an asset in establishing land mortgage banks in Georgia would open an avenue of cash capital to Georgia farmers an amount of ready money considerably in excess of the present entire banking capital of the state.

In Europe fifty-year land mortgages are negotiated in the open markets at 50 per cent of the assessed value of the lands, and sold at a rate of interest not exceeding 3 to 4 per cent per annum. Upon that basis Georgia landowners could readily create a cash capital with their landed assets alone of \$175,000,000.

## The American Commission.

To lay the foundation for agricultural freedom from our present antiquated and ruinous systems of farm credits, and to enable farmers to grow their crops upon a spot cash basis, and market the products of their labor and capital as consumption requires those products in the legitimate channels of business, the American commission has been assembled under the auspices of the Southern Commercial Congress to go to Europe in April to investigate how, and in what way, European farmers have so successfully organized their rural banking systems and co-operative marketing societies.

This commission, composed of representative delegates from practically every state in the union, has the full indorsement and co-operation of the federal government.

If the European systems are adapted to meet the needs of American agriculture, and unquestionably they will be, farmers' co-operative societies, organized and operating

under uniform state and federal laws, can obtain on their collective security, such as negotiable land bonds, all the cash capital required.

They could then lend this money out to their members and customers, which would be employed in the development of a modern system of diversified agriculture, and in marketing farm products upon the most profitable terms. The landowners in Georgia could manage their business and protect their tenants.

When the present ruinous credit system is lifted from the shoulders of the struggling white tenant, he will soon be able to buy a farm of his own, educate his children, enjoy some of the simple luxuries of life in his home and develop into a stronger type of independent citizen. Farm life will become attractive, and every tiller of the soil will have well-filled cribs of corn and smokehouses, the product of his own labor under a well-regulated, modern system of diversified farming.

As it is, tenantry is increasing in Georgia, and land-owning farmers are decreasing. The tale of this unfortunate condition is told, when it is stated that \$37,000,000, more than the entire value of the Georgia cotton crop in 1912, went into the west to pay for supplies to grow the crop, and at a cost price to the growers which will wreck any business in the world.

A sound system of rural credits and co-operative marketing societies will settle the problem of profitable farming and diversified agriculture will quickly follow as a matter of course.

But not until then, no matter how much good and wholesome advice is given out to cotton growers. In this laudable undertaking to free the farmers from existing bad credit conditions they should have the loyal support and co-operation of all the people in this state, because the success of the farmer means the success of every other enterprise in our grand old commonwealth.

HARVIE JORDAN.

Atlanta, Ga.

# BILL BOLL WEEVIL PROVES A BLESSING

Pest Forced Diversified and  
Intensified Farming in In-  
fested Districts Where  
Arguments Failed

*Most attention*  
Gaunt calamity stalks just ahead and trails just behind the progress of the Mexican cotton boll weevil, says Walter Harper, in The Birmingham News.

His slimy, blighting train is now making its course across the State of Alabama. Its progress is marked by panic.

Since the first appearance of the pest in Texas more than twelve years ago, millions of dollars have been spent by the Government and State officials in



combating it. Biological experts of every country have combined their knowledge and genius in an effort to check and destroy the insect.

Millions of good dollars have been sacrificed on the altar of the bugs' appetite. The loss to the Southern farmer in actual dollars cannot be estimated.

And yet, though paradoxical as it may seem, the boll weevil is proving the greatest blessing that has ever befallen the people of the South.

For thirty years newspapers, orators, merchants, bankers and others have preached diversification of crops. Everything that seemed possible was done to induce the farmer to plant less cotton and more food crops.

No heed was given to this advice until the appearance of the boll weevil. This pest has been an educator—an educator with an iron rule. The boll weevil has forced diversification and intensification. The boll weevil is bringing to the Southland prosperity of which its most optimistic dreamers never dreamed.

#### Systems are Revolutionized.

The boll weevil is a destroyer of large plantations left in the hands of unskilled and careless tenants. He is revolutionizing the whole system of tenantry, supply advancing and debt-making.

Corn, cattle, hogs, potatoes, hay, bank deposits, happier homes and more independence follow close behind the wake of the boll weevil.

The wreck is in most places almost complete. The healing, the rebuilding is magnificent.

It takes from three to four years to recover from the damage where no advance preparation has been made. If preparations have been made in advance, business and conditions are often adjusted in one year. It takes some sacrifice, but the reward is fully compensatory.

Government officials many years ago gave up the idea of destroying or checking the boll weevil. They turned their attention to preparing the farmers for combatting the pest. Cotton can be grown under boll weevil conditions, but not under the old tenant system. The farmer must look after the cultivation of his farm. He must improve the soil, make careful selection of seed, cultivated rapidly, plant early, push his crop, gather quickly and destroy the remaining stalks.

Tenants will not do this.

Along the wake of the boll weevil now crossing the Black Belt of Alabama, thousands of acres of land are idle. The cabins of the negroes are deserted. Waste growth is choking some of the finest lands in Alabama and Mississippi.

Merchants and land owners are demoralized. Labor is panic stricken and those who can get away are gone either to points ahead of the weevil or to sections behind that have recovered from the shock.

The farmers of Alabama and Mississippi had ample warning of the panic that was approaching. They were told what to do to avert ruin.

#### Noah Gave His Warning.

Noah warned the people of the approaching flood for more than one hundred years. Only the members of his immediate family believed him.

Two years before the weevil arrived in Sumter County, Alabama, one of the

leading business men of Livingston made the statement that he had so much faith in the Government experts that he believed the weevil would be destroyed before he arrived in Sumter County.

The boll weevil arrived in Sumter two years ago, exactly on schedule time and this man is now looking for the best way to conduct his business in spite of the weevil.

In East and North Alabama farmers and business men are still faithful to a hopeless hope. The boll weevil will arrive in due season. However, many wise farmers and business men have heeded the warning of facts, history and the gospel of Government experts and are prepared when the pest arrives. The effort of preparation brings such instant promise of a better condition that many are really glad when the pest arrives.

The boll weevil does not eat potatoes, cattle, corn, hay, hogs and beans. People eat these things and have but little appetite for cotton.

The increased production of these food products is bringing about many things to the inestimable advantage of the people of the South. Increased fertility of soil, bank savings accounts, painted residences in the country, independence of a one season crop.

Cotton is made a surplus crop. The South is producing as much cotton as ever, and at advanced prices. More is gathered from the acre. Production of corn, cattle, vegetables and other food crops has been more than doubled since the arrival of the boll weevil.

J. B. Ennis, one of the largest supply merchants of Livingston, Sumter County, in a letter to The Birmingham News gives a good description of the panic that always follows the arrival of the boll weevil in a section. Mr. Ennis says:

#### Heralded Several Years Ago.

"Several years ago the advance of the boll weevil was heralded throughout the State. Sumter County being on the border line of Mississippi, naturally came in for a lion's share of the warnings. Our Congressmen sent experts to warn us; the newspapers sent reporters to interview us on the subject. We received messages of condolence from our neighboring counties. Some people scoffed. Some pinned their faith to the United States Government, believing it would find a way to rid us of this pest; the great majority believed and were benefited by the advice of Government experts and the press.

"This is the second year Sumter County has been infested by boll weevils. Last year they were felt. More so in the southern part of the county than in the northern. This year they were felt all over the county. Money tightened last fall and has been tight all the year. Merchants, bankers and large planters have been particular in extending credit this year. This, together with the high price of cotton and all other farm products, has saved us this year. The boll weevil has unquestionably seriously injured the crop in Sumter County and has done some damage in Greene and Marengo.

"When it is taken into consideration that 60 to 85 per cent of the population—and outside of the towns the percentage runs higher—are ignorant negroes the proposition of fighting the boll weevil by improved methods of culture is a stupendous one. Again, a

large percentage of land in Sumter County is owned by non-residents who rent their lands to negroes.

#### Hard to Hold Labor.

"These negro renters are supplied on the credit by white merchants. Without the landlords to stand for their advances or at least instruct and encourage them the merchants cannot supply the negro tenant. This is the class of labor that it will be hard to hold. The white farmer living on his own farm does not dread so much the ravages of the weevil. He can handle his labor and raise other things, but not over one-fourth of the land in Sumter County is occupied by the owners.

"The cattle business has grown wonderfully and has helped, but the white farmer living on his own land is again the man who is benefited. Cattle don't wear shoes nor clothes, and a plantation turned into a stock farm supports two families where formerly it supported ten. The merchants who have made up their minds what to do are determined not to advance money or supplies unless they are well secured.

"There is hardly a merchant in Sumter County who does not expect to extend less credit in 1914 than ever before. Landlords do, not expect to supply any tenants who have not enough live stock to secure their rents and supplies. The thrifty negroes have tightened up and will continue, but the improvident class which constitutes the vast majority are letting the white folks do the worrying.

"There is no concerted action being taken to help matters and conditions do not look good. This county and adjoining counties will suffer and suffer a great deal from the boll weevil. If there is any solution of the problem the answer had better be given for all Alabama and sooner or later have to go through the same thing that Sumter is now undergoing. The arrival of the boll weevil may be a blessing in disguise, but if it is, it is well disguised so far."

#### Pest There Five Years.

Lauderdale County, Mississippi, in which is located the town of Meridian, presents a fine example of conditions following the immediate wake of the boll weevil. Lauderdale has had the pest for about five years. The weevil is still present in the cotton fields. But there are not as many and as large cotton fields as before.

You see fine corn, hogs, cattle, ribbon cane, potatoes everywhere. As a result, I am told by the merchants and bankers of Meridian, farmers are in better condition than ever before. Many who were never known to be out of debt are paying up and are paying cash for all their supplies. They do not have so many supplies to buy. They have corn, potatoes, meat, molasses and other food supplies at home. They are able to grow enough cotton to buy clothes and other necessities they cannot produce at home. They also find a ready market for whatever surplus of food crops they raise.

Merchants of Meridian are almost unanimous in the assertion that farm collections are better than before the boll weevil arrived. Bankers declare that farmers' deposits are increasing rapidly.

Here is an instance. J. E. Reed, vice-president of the Citizens' Nation-

al Bank of Meridian, said the deposits in his bank had increased since last February from \$921,674.50 to \$1,139,075.90 October 21. Mr. Reed says that a large part of the business of his bank is done with the farmers of the county. He said that the farmers and the country merchants of Lauderdale County made fewer and lighter demands on the banks for loans during this year than ever before and had larger balances in the bank. He said this had enabled money on deposit in the bank to be used in industrial development and evidences of this can be seen on every hand in Meridian.

#### Says Weevil is Blessing.

Mr. Reed declared that the boll weevil had been a blessing to all the intelligent and progressive people of the town and county.

The West Alabama Fair just closed at Meridian, was said to be one of the best held anywhere in the South. Its agricultural exhibits emphasized the great advances that have been made in farming during the past five years.

I was told by bankers, merchants and business men of all classes that Meridian and Lauderdale have just passed through the most prosperous year of their history, and in face of the fact that less than 6,000 bales of cotton are expected to come to that market this season. The receipts for 1911 were over 24,000 bales.

I heard of two negro tenants in this belt who recently paid their rent for next year in advance. Many thrifty negroes have proven themselves equal to the new condition and are making their living at home. The white landowners always encourage these exceptional negroes.

It has been proven that the forcing of the farmers on their own resources, cutting off their source of supplies and approach of the boll weevil, is proving the greatest stimulant to industry and by man or Providence ever prescribed.



## Labor

# Negro Will Be Tried For Holding One of His Own Color in Peonage

Mont. Adv. - 7-25-13

A peculiar case, in which one negro is alleged to have held another negro in peonage, will be called in the Federal Court here today, when Alex Carter will answer the charge of holding one of his color against his will. The negro is alleged to have worked this other negro against his will and refused to let him leave his farm in Pike County.

The case is probably the first of its kind ever docketed in this division of the United States Court.

## Negro's Cabin Dynamited.

Cumming, Ga., Aug. 7.—John Woolsey, the only negro in Forsyth county, was blown out of bed through the roof of his cabin, eight miles north of Cumming, and suffered a broken leg, when dynamite was set off under the house, according to information that has reached Cumming. The dynamiting took place on the farm of Wyley Smith. The negro had moved to the Smith place just a few days ago. He was warned to leave the county and Smith was warned to get rid of him, but neither paid any heed, and the dynamiting resulted. The cabin occupied by Woolsey was completely wrecked.

## COMPLAINING NEGRO MUST

## BE PRODUCED BY MARSH

Mont. Adv. 8-15-13

## Illegal Restraint Is Alleged Against Citizen of Coffee County

Unusual and interesting habeas corpus proceedings will be heard in the United States District Court this morning by Judge William Sheppard, the case of a negro, Buster Freeman. The proceedings were to have been called yesterday but owing to a press of other matters was postponed until today.

Buster alleges that he is being held against his will on the farm of Sid Marsh, a white man, at New Brocton, Ala., and that, as he had no money to engage counsel and no friends to fight his case for him, he appealed to United States District Attorney Warren S. Reese. The district attorney took the negro's case in hand and the first step taken by him was the suing out of a writ of habeas corpus, compelling Mr. Marsh to bring the negro into the Federal Court today and show why he should not be given his full liberty as guaranteed under the constitution.

Buster Freeman, in alleging that he is held against his will, points out a case of peonage, but no peonage charges, however, have been brought

against Mr. Marsh. The government's first step, through the district attorney, was to bring habeas corpus proceedings and if the evidence warrants further action, it is hinted Mr. Marsh may have to answer charges of peonage.

Much interest is centered in this case, especially in Coffee County, and quite a number of citizens of that community will be here today to attend the hearing. Mr. Marsh will be represented by Attorney Harry Martin, of Ozark.

Buster Freeman is a one-legged negro. He claims he is being held illegally to work out a debt of six dollars which he owes to Mr. Marsh.

## THE PROBLEM OF THE

## BLACK BELT.

The Business Men's League of Montgomery has set its mind and energies upon a worthy, if difficult task. It is proposed to make a greater and better organized campaign to bring Northern and Western settlers to Montgomery county. This part of the task should be easy—it is announced that already the names of 3,000 Northern men who are interested in Black Belt lands, are on file in the offices of the Business Men's League. Progressive men in other parts of the country unquestionably are interested in the substantial claims of Alabamians.

The Advertiser is of the opinion that the reason we have not yet executed the obvious solution of the Black Belt plantation problem, is not due to the prospector. It is not due altogether to the enterprising organizations of this section. But the reason is due to the owners of the land. The problem before the Business Men's League of Montgomery and the Immigration Commission of the State is, how to induce the big land owner to appreciate the philosophy of those who urge him to cut up his land into smaller tracts and have it sold to and settled by thrifty Northerners, Germans or Swedes. When this proposition is submitted to the land owner he is frank enough to give the enquirer the truth, the selfish side of the matter, and his reply will be something to this effect:

"I own 5,000 acres of the richest land in the State. I live in town and find it difficult to spend the rents realized from this land, land which is cultivated by negro hands or tenants. I love to conduct a store on that plantation, sell a plug of tobacco to this negro, lend this one a quarter, have this one to hitch up my horse,

and that one to do this. I love to hear the darkies sing, and see them dance; I love to see them plow in the spring of the year, and watch them picking cotton in the fall. I like to sympathize with them in their troubles and laugh with them in their pleasures. Negro labor is cheap. My profits are easy. To run my business on this scale, though an old plan, and perhaps not the thing best for the State at large, is my joy. I would rather live that way than any other way. Why should I sell my land, when my natural desire is to buy as much more of it as I can? Why should I forsake my life of ease and pleasure for the benefit of others? Again when foreigners are brought in, what is to become of the negroes?"

This is not an overdrawn case. It is the thought which may be found at any time in the back of the big land owner's head. With this thought in mind, and taking advantage of the desire of other settlers to buy Alabama lands, he boosts the price of his property to a greater point than the settler is willing to pay.

The Advertiser states the truth of the situation plainly, and urges the enterprising citizens of this city and State to fix their attention upon these facts. The problem before us is not how to get out-of-State citizens interested in Alabama, but how to get Alabama land owners to sell their property at a reasonable price. The landowner must be convinced that it is to his interest, as well as to the interest of the State, to yield to the new and inevitable order of things.

## WHITE FARMERS OUSTING BLACKS Many Immigrants From Other States Taking Farms in Houston County.

Perry, Ga., January 4.—(Special.)—A large plantation, about 7 miles west of town, consisting of 708 acres, and owned by Ed M. McKenzie, of Montezuma, will be farmed this year by white people exclusively, thereby ridding this plantation of the unreliable negro labor that now dominates the country. Mr. McKenzie has secured the immigration from Clay county, Alabama, of six white families, who will work his farm on the share system this year. These families are R. N. Ward, C. F. Hornsby, W. W. Gray, Julius Waldrop, M. A. Wesley and Grady Wesley. These families aggregate about thirty people. Upon their arrival the plantation was cleared of its negro

aborers and the white families domiciled on the farm. They propose to do all of their work and to win the confidence of the white people of the neighborhood.

Other large plantations of the county are endeavoring to secure white families to settle on small farms to be laid out by their owners. B. P. Starbuck, about one and a half miles south of town, has on his farm of 2,100 acres six families from Indiana and California. Also, A. T. and G. L. Small, who hold large tracts of land about 6 miles east of town, have located families from north Georgia who will cast their fortunes here, they having purchased their farms.

A number of immigrants from Virginia and North and South Carolina have purchased farms in Houston, and are endeavoring to make their farms self-supporting in every way. Houston lands are attracting attention wherever mentioned, and, for fertility and easy cultivation, cannot be excelled by any and equaled by no other county in the

## PEONAGE HEARING IS POSTPONED AT DOTHAN

Two are Charged With Illegal Restraint and Inhuman Treatment of Negroes.

Owing to the absence of several material Government witnesses, the preliminary hearing of Ardin M. Carter and Lee Hodges, charged with keeping Alex Suffle, a negro, in peonage, was postponed at Dothan yesterday afternoon. Lee J. Clayton, Assistant District Attorney, who was to have prosecuted the case on behalf of the Government, returned to Montgomery last night.

The negro came into Montgomery a week ago, and, displaying a hundred scars before the Federal officials here, sought the arrest of the men supposed to be responsible for his condition. He averred that the men had held him against his will.

The men were to have been given a hearing before United States Commissioner C. S. Tutwiler at Dothan yesterday.

## Negro Found Guilty of Holding an Aged Negress in Peonage

Lincoln's emancipation proclamation made small impression on Alex Carter, a negro of Troy, according to evidence offered against the man when he was convicted of peonage in the United States District Court yesterday. According to witnesses, the negro not only held one of his color in slavery, but he beat and mistreated his "slave."

Evidence was introduced to show that Carter employed an aged negress to work upon his place near Troy and that when she attempted to leave his service, he refused to let her go. The negress ran away, but was again captured and, witnesses testified, was badly beaten by Carter, who again held her until the Federal laws interfered.

Carter was arrested by county officials of Pike county for whipping and mistreating the woman and was

sentenced to serve six months on the roads of that county. After the sentence expired he was arrested and indicted for peonage, his conviction of yesterday resulting.

Judge Sheppard has not yet passed sentence on the prisoner.